



Recent Press Releases



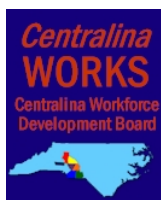
9-24-2007 - The Greater Statesville Development Corporation announced today that [Newell Rubbermaid](#), a global marketer of consumer and commercial products with sales of approximately \$6 billion, will relocate its corporate flight operations center to the Statesville Regional Airport beginning in 2008. Newell Rubbermaid will base three aircraft and at least 15 new jobs at the facility. "We chose Statesville because it is near our key facilities and customers, which enables us to operate more efficiently, and because Statesville has a first-class facility in a location with a good quality of life for our employees' families," said Randy Alwes, Newell Rubbermaid's chief pilot. "Today's announcement does much to boost the airport's regional prominence and the community's confidence that our economy is strong," said Mayor Costi Kutteh. "This is a tremendous development for the City of Statesville and Iredell County," added County Commissioners Chairman Marvin Norman. The move marks the second Fortune 500 Company to call Statesville Regional Airport home. The airport is currently undergoing a \$14 million expansion that will include a new fixed base of operation and additional hangar space. Groundbreaking for the 24,000 square foot project is slated for later this year. The first day of full operation is scheduled for early 2008.



A new 332,000 square foot facility is being built by [Pratt Industries](#) at the West Industrial Park, located 2 miles from Interstate 40 in Statesville, NC. This project will use a new rail siding to move raw materials in for processing. The plant expansion will be a three-phase project implemented over a three to five year period. This decision allows Pratt to increase production of current products at the Statesville plant. Greater Statesville Development Chairman David Steele said, "We're delighted that Pratt Industries is expanding their Statesville operation so dramatically. Local industries growing and adding jobs is a key component of the growth in the area. Congratulations to Pratt and all their local associates for their outstanding success. We look forward to working with them as they grow the company in the future." Pratt Industries, headquartered in Sydney, Australia opened its current Statesville facility in 1989. The Statesville plant produces corrugated boxes for packaged consumer goods products. The company is the world's largest privately-owned paper and packaging business, with annual sales of more than \$2 billion. The company employs 8,000 people in the U.S. and Australia, and is the 7th largest corrugated packaging company in America. The company maintains a strong focus on recycling and the environment by "harvesting the urban forest" to produce the industry's best packaging products. The new plant will be an investment up to \$33,000,000. Pratt will also be adding 68 new positions once the facility is completed.



[Amesbury Group, Inc.](#) broke ground on Tuesday, August 14 to formally announce the expansion of their current facility at the Dowell Industrial Park, located one mile from Interstate 40 in Statesville, NC. The plant expansion will be a two-phase project implemented over a three to five year period. This decision allows Amesbury to increase production of current products at the Statesville plant. The Statesville plant produces weather-stripping products for the door and window industry. The Textile Division has grown steadily over the past 17 years and expanded their product line to include both woven and non-woven style weather seals. Rich Gustin, General Manager, made the following statement, "First I give GOD the glory. I am pleased with the outstanding workforce that we have in our community. We have been able to put together an excellent group of people here. Everyone at Amesbury-Textile has worked very hard as a team for many years to establish our facility as a center of manufacturing excellence in the production of pile weather-stripping. Through their efforts we have earned this opportunity for growth. I am proud of our people and our accomplishments, and am excited about the bright future this growth will present to us." The new plant will be an investment up to \$4,500,000, and will also be adding 36 new positions once the expansion on their facility is completed. Partners who helped make this announcement possible include Iredell County and the Greater Statesville Development Corporation.



The Centralina Workforce Development Board (WDB) has recently issued Incumbent Workforce Development Program funding to two area existing industries. The Centralina Workforce Development Board approved grants for two Statesville companies with funding provided by the NC Department of Commerce Commission on Workforce Development. Each employer will receive the requested amount of funds to help upgrade the skills of their current workforce.

For the second year in a row, [ASMO North Carolina Inc.](#) located in Statesville (Iredell County) was recently recognized by the N.C. Department of Labor for its safety efforts. The Department of Labor awarded the company with a Million Hour Award at the Statesville Safety Awards Banquet. So far, the 431 employees at ASMO have gone 2 million hours or two years without having an accident where they would have to miss work. Human Resources manager, Jeff Stutts said that their record is pretty good considering each employee works 2,080 hours a year. "We are working on our third million," he said. "Everybody's safety is their own responsibility," Stutts said. "Safety has to be driven from the top down." Another contributing factor is the \$140 million reinvestment ASMO has made to automate the plan. Stutts stated that going from manual to automated cut back on the number of carpal tunnel injuries, which resulted in missed days. The training that ASMO received that helped them streamline their productivity and activity was due in part to an **Incumbent Worker Grant**, made available by the Centralina Workforce Development Board. To find out how your company can receive Incumbent Worker training funds, please contact Vail Carter, Centralina Workforce Development Board Business Services Coordinator at (704) 348-2710 or by email at vcarter@centralina.org.



[Plastiflex, Inc.](#), in Statesville (Iredell County), is a manufacturer of spirally wound extruded plastics. The company primarily services the swimming pool and industrial cleaning industries. Plans call for them to train 27 manufacturing employees. Training will include extrusion techniques and ISO Auditor Training. Training will be provided by the Polymers Center of Excellence and QAI Training, LLC. Plastiflex, Inc. will be receiving \$ 6,037 in Incumbent Workforce Development funds through a contract with the Centralina WDB, based on the grant awarded July 2, 2007.



[Mitchell Community College](#) [Makes Top 10 List](#) [for CRC](#)



A recent report released from the North Carolina Community College System has rated the top ten Career Readiness Certification (CRC) sites in the State. [Mitchell Community College](#) was listed in the State's top ten CRC sites. MCC was are recognized for their many creative efforts to reach the community to make them aware of the Career Readiness Certification. the Career Readiness Certification is a state program that is designed to equip individuals with a recognizable skill certification that facilitates job placement, retention, and advancement. The Career Readiness Certification helps to ensure a community workforce that is prepared for the jobs of the future, as well as jobs that sustain the current economic base. There are three levels of certificates awarded, Bronze, Silver, and Gold, all based on WorkKeys Assessments. These assessments can be used by any entity concerned about the employability skills of current and future employees. Test results provide valuable information for individuals, employers, colleges, JobLink Career Centers, and skills training programs.

Information on ASMO & Mitchell Community College appeared in the [Centralina WDB E-Newsletter](#) – June 2007 issue

[JC Steele & Sons, Inc.](#), in Statesville (Iredell County), designs and manufactures clay-working machinery and related service parts for the brick industry. The company will train 20 employees and plans to hold 4 Lean Manufacturing Events at their plant. An instructor provided through Mitchell Community College will facilitate the 12 days of training. The expected outcome of the training will be an improvement in workflow and elimination of waste. JC Steele & Sons, Inc. will be receiving \$ 15,680 in Incumbent Workforce Development funds through a contract with the Centralina WDB, based on the grant awarded July 2, 2007. **Information on Plastiflex & JC Steele appeared in the [Centralina WDB E-Newsletter](#) – July 2007 issue**



Textile Plant Celebrates One Year Without Any Lost Time Due to Injury

Excerpts of article from Statesville Record & Landmark (Bethany Fuller) Friday, August 24, 2007

As of June 12, employees at William T. Burnett Textile plant on Front Street went 8,760 hours without having an accident, and the hour hand is still moving. "Safety is every day," said Keith Shoemaker, plant production manager. success this week by serving its 126 employees on all four shifts breakfast or dinner. Safety is one of management's biggest concerns, said Mike McAlister, plant manager. In the eight years he's worked at the plant, McAlister has seen the number of accidents go down, he said. "We work around very dangerous equipment," he said, "but we are watching out for each other." When the number of accidents goes down, McAlister said, so does worker's compensation costs. The lower the costs, the more competitive the plant can be. "Our business is absolutely booming," McAlister said. "We are in a very fortunate situation here where we are oversold." These days people hear a lot about the textile industry going to China or India for cheap labor, he said. McAlister said the best thing the company did to remain in the global textile game was to specialize in flame-resistant woven material for automobiles and bedding.

Lean Manufacturing Seminar Held

The GSDC held its first Breakfast Buzz in the Statesville Chamber conference room on September 25th. Breakfast Buzz is a series of free informational seminars exclusively for manufacturers; featuring industry experts with the latest information on "buzz-worthy" topics of interest to the industrial community.

The September topic was Lean Manufacturing, and the guest speaker was Betty Scipione, Director of New & Expanding Industry for Mitchell Community College and a former Lean Manufacturing trainer with NC State University's Industrial Extension Service. Scipione presented a step-by-step template for Lean implementation success and John Marek, coordinator of the GSDC Business Expansion & Retention offered real-world case studies that demonstrated the value of Lean thinking in today's highly competitive business environment.

The next Breakfast Buzz will be held on November 27th and will feature registered Professional Engineer and Six Sigma Black Belt Bob Olsen speaking on Quality Systems for Manufacturing.

To register for the seminar, please contact Lisa Taylor at 704-871-0062 or ltaylor@greaterstatesville.com.



34th Carolina BalloonFest

This fun filled event for all the family will be hosted by Statesville Regional Airport. See 50 colorful hot air balloons, the Wine Festival will present the best from twenty of North Carolina's award winning wineries. Find a childrens Fun Zone, a great selection of food, main stage entertainment plus local artisans present their crafts. Special event for Saturday evening is the Balloon Glow.

**Saturday & Sunday
October 27 - 28, 2007**

Statesville Regional Airport
Aviation Drive,

Statesville, North Carolina

I-40 West, Exit 146 or

1-40 West, Exit 148 to Hwy 70

<http://www.carolinaballoonfest.com>

Crossroads Pumpkin Fest

Saturday, November 3, 2007

Downtown Statesville

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Celebrate Fall with the Crossroads Pumpkin Festival. This fall celebration features live entertainment, great food, arts and crafts, all the pumpkins you can imagine, a three city block children's entertainment area with games, rides and activities such as pumpkin bowling, pumpkin painting and even pumpkin smashing. The festival is free and open to the public with a small fee for children to enjoy the three city block children's entertainment area.



Come join us on Saturday, November 3, 2007 for one of the area's most enjoyable and entertaining festivals. We hope to see you on the square in Downtown Statesville this November. <http://www.statesvillepumpkinfest.com>

New Committee of 100 Members

GSDC would like to recognize and thank the newest members of the Committee of 100.

Bill Stiles And Company / joined 8-2007

Weichert Realtors / joined 9-2007

2007 Community New Business & Existing Industry Activity

New Industry:

Ginn Racing (Aviation Hanger) (7-07)

Square Footage: 42,000
Jobs: 11

**Newell-Rubbermaid (9-07)
(Corporation Fight Operations Center)**

Square Footage: 24,000
Jobs: 15
Investment: \$20-\$40 million

Great Lakes Power Company (9-07)

Square Footage: 19,600
Jobs: 6-12

Expansions:

Pratt Industries (7-07)

Square Footage: 332,000
Jobs: 68
Investment: \$33 million

Amesbury Group (8-07)

Square Footage: 12,500-25,000
Jobs: 36
Investment: \$4.5 million

Greater Statesville Development Corporation has NEW web site / email

GSDC has recently updated its web site, web site address, and email addresses. Please visit the new web site at: www.greaterstatesville.org. We welcome your comments.

Following are our updated email addresses:

Michael Smith: msmith@greaterstatesville.org

John Marek: jmarek@greaterstatesville.org

Lisa Taylor: ltaylor@greaterstatesville.org



GREATER STATESVILLE
Greater Statesville Area Committee of 100
115 E. Front St., Statesville, NC 28677
(704-871-0062)
www.greaterstatesville.org
info@greaterstatesville.org